



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,101	04/21/2005	Heon-Sang Ahn	P27779	3930
7055 7590 03/11/2008 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191				
EXAMINER				
BASICHAS, ALFRED				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3749				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/11/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com

pto@gbpatent.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/532,101

Applicant(s)

AHN, HEON-SANG

Examiner

Alfred Basichas

Art Unit

3749

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-8 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-8 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/06)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 1, 5, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolter (US2003/0129559) in view of Valentino (5,673,802) and Carpenter (6,554,448). Wolter discloses substantially all of the claimed limitations including, among other things,

1. A cake decorating device, comprising: a base 5,12 on a cake 2; a heating unit 16 mounted to the base to emit heat (inherent that a candle will emit heat); and display provided on a vertical wall of the base and including a previously printed message (see at least figs. 5 and 6).

2. The cake decorating device as defined in claim 1, wherein the heating unit comprises a support plate 5 mounted to an upper surface of the base 12; at least

Art Unit: 3749

one candlestick (see bottom of candle 16) provided on the support plate; and a candle 16 placed on the candlesticks.

4. The cake decorating device as defined in claim 1, wherein the heating unit comprises a base 5 having a plurality of locking holes 16a thereon; at least one candlestick 16 having a locking pin (see bottom of candle 16) at a lower surface thereof to be fitted into each of the locking holes of the base; and a candle placed on the candlestick.

5. The cake decorating device as defined in claim 1, wherein the heating unit comprises a plurality of candlesticks each provided with a candle, and adhered onto an upper surface of the base.

11. The cake decorating device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one candle comprises a generally linear array of candles extending along a major dimension of the base (Note that linear given its broadest reasonable interpretation denotes relating to a line. However, the line is not required to be straight and may be in the form of at least an arc. Wolter clearly shows this arrangement in at least figs. 1,5, as well as being along a major dimension).

Nevertheless, Wolter does not specifically recite:

A rectangular shape, wherein the base is substantially smaller than the cake, having a support pin at a lower surface thereof to be pinned, thermosensitive, wherein heat emitted from the heating unit causes a color change of the message, such that said display displays the message

- a. As regards the shape and relative size, orientation is an obvious modification based on design choice, and depends on spatial considerations and esthetic appeal. The size of a cake decoration depends more on its intended use rather than anything else. Specifically, a single size may be produced for a wide range of cake sizes and types. Therefore it should not be unreasonable that the decoration, including its base, would be smaller than the cake to which it is to be mounted. The shape of the decoration, and thereby the base, is dependent on desired esthetic appeal. As there are a variety of shapes in which cakes are made, there should be no question that the shape of the decorations may vary as well. And, a rectangular shape is not unknown. All in all, cake decorations are plentiful and come in a myriad of shapes, arrangements, sizes, and colors. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate it into the invention taught by the combination, so as to provide for spatial considerations and esthetic appeal.

- b. As regards the support pins, Valentino teaches a cake decorating device including pins 46 that extend into the cake and thereby provide a firm and stable attachment thereof. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate Valentino's teaching of pins into the invention disclosed by Wolter, so as to provide for a firm and stable attachment thereof.
- c. As regards thermosensitive color change, Carpenter teaches a thermosensitive (i.e., thermochromatic) message that changes color from the heat of a candle 25 so as to provide an esthetically pleasing display (see at least col. 8, lines 3-34). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate Carpenter's teaching of a color changing thermosensitive message into the invention disclosed by Wolter, so as to provide an esthetically pleasing display.
4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolter (US2003/0129559) in view of Valentino (5,673,802) and Carpenter (6,554,448). The combination teaches substantially all of the claimed limitations

3. The cake decorating device as defined in claim 1, wherein the heating unit comprises a base having a rail groove thereon; at least one candlesticks having a locking part at a lower surface thereof to be fitted into the rail groove of the base; and a candle placed on the candlesticks.

Official Notice is given that claimed attachment arrangements are old and well known in the art. Such an arrangement has the clear and obvious benefit of providing for efficient attachment of various components. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the claimed

Art Unit: 3749

attachments into the invention taught by the combination, so as to provide for efficient attachment member.

5. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolter (US2003/0129559) in view of Valentino (5,673,802) and Carpenter (6,554,448), and further in view of Zer (5,860,725). The combination of Wolter, Valentino, and Carpenter teach substantially all of the claimed limitations, but does not specifically recite:

6. The cake decorating device as defined in claim 1, wherein the heating unit comprises a candle-receiving chamber integrated with the base; and a candle having a plurality of candlewicks and received in the candle-receiving chamber.

7. The cake decorating device as defined in claim 1, wherein the heating unit comprises a candle-receiving chamber provided on an upper surface of the base; and a candle having a plurality of candlewicks and received in the candle-receiving chamber.

d. As regards integral components, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated integral components in the invention disclosed by Wolter, since it has been held that where constituent parts are combined so as to constitute a unitary whole, the unitary whole is deemed integral. *In re Larson*, 144 USPQ 347.

e. As regards a plurality of wicks, Zer teaches a candle 50 utilized in a heat responsive display including a plurality of wicks 52,54,56. Zer teaches that such an arrangement is beneficial by providing for different burning lives in order to allow for the desired effect. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a plurality of

wicks as taught by Zer into the invention taught by the above combination, so as to provide for the desired effect.

6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolter (US2003/0129559) in view of Valentino (5,673,802) and Carpenter (6,554,448), which combination teaches substantially all of the claimed limitations, but does not specifically recite:

8. The cake decorating device as defined in claim 1, wherein the displaying unit comprises a transfer paper printed by a thermosensitive microcapsule product.

While the reference may silent as to how the apparatus is manufactured, the prior art apparatus appears to be the same as claimed. This product-by-process limitation would not be expected to impart distinctive structural characteristics to the apparatus. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized any process including that which is recited in the claims to have produced the print.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claim have been considered but are not found persuasive.

f. In response to applicant's assertion that the examiner has provided no factual basis or proper reasoning to support the assertion regarding the obviousness of the shape and relative size, the examiner felt that such was not necessary given the uncomplicated nature of the issue at hand. Nevertheless, in

response to the amendments to the claims, the rejection has been modified and further discussion included therein.

g. Applicant's arguments regarding claim 11 are moot in light of the new grounds for rejection in response to the amendment thereof.

h. In response to applicant's arguments against the references (top of page 7 regarding Wolter in the remarks of 8/16/07) individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

i. In response to applicant's argument (of 8/16/07) that Carpenter is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Carpenter involves printed messages and the esthetics thereof. This is clearly within applicant's endeavor of a display, or the problem of esthetically pleasing display.

j. As regards applicant's assertion (of 8/16/07) that there is no reason to combine Valentino with Wolter, applicant's attention is directed to the rejection above where motivation is specifically recited.

k. As regards applicant's traversal of Zer (of 8/16/07), applicant directs the examiner's attention to figure 4 of the present invention. Applicant is reminded that although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Applicant further asserts that Zer is not appropriate because it includes additional elements not claimed. Applicant is reminded that the claims are not limited in such a manner as to preclude additional elements. Applicant's assertion that there is "no need to use the candle unit from Zer" is irrelevant.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alfred Basichas whose telephone number is 571 272 4871. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Tech Center telephone number is 571 272 3700.

March 13, 2008

/Alfred Basichas/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3749